

Amendments to the Claims

1. (Currently amended) A method for grafting a graft vessel to a target vessel during an anastomosis procedure, the method comprising:

forming an incision in the target vessel;

placing incision tensioners within the incision in the target vessel;

tensioning the incision in the target vessel with the incision tensioners; ~~and~~

grafting the graft vessel to the target vessel while the incision is tensioned; and

removing the incision tensioners from the incision after the grafting.

Claims 2-9. (Withdrawn).

10. (Original) A method for grafting a graft vessel to a target vessel as recited in Claim 1, wherein the incision is tensioned to a predetermined length which corresponds to a size of the graft vessel to be grafted to the target vessel during the anastomosis procedure.

11. (Original) A method for grafting a graft vessel to a target vessel as recited in Claim 1, wherein the operation of tensioning the incision in the target vessel further comprises:

pulling the incision tensioners with a predetermined force.

12. (Original) A method for grafting a graft vessel to a target vessel as recited in Claim 11, wherein the predetermined force is in a range of about .001 N to about 4.5 N.

13. (Original) A method for grafting a graft vessel to a target vessel as recited in Claim 1, wherein the incision tensioners are clips which include a first tine and a second tine.

14. (Original) A method for grafting a graft vessel to a target vessel as recited in Claim 13, wherein both the first tine and the second tine are configured to penetrate both the graft vessel and the target vessel.

15. (Original) A method for grafting a graft vessel to a target vessel as recited in Claim 14, wherein both the first tine and the second tine are configured to rotate such that the first tine and the second tine capture the graft vessel and the target vessel.

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16. (Original) A method for grafting a graft vessel to a target vessel as recited in Claim 14, wherein both the first tine and the second tine are configured to fold over such that the first tine and the second tine capture the graft vessel and the target vessel.

17. (Withdrawn)

18. (Original) A method for grafting a graft vessel to a target vessel as recited in Claim 1, wherein the tensioning of the incision allows a geometry of the incision in the target vessel to remain constant during the anastomosis procedure.

Claims 19-53. (Withdrawn).